

REPLACEMENT SHEET

ABSTRACT

Process for the preparation of tobacco leaves with a standardized nicotine content and/or improved combustibility, for use in the manufacture of smoking products such as cigarettes, cigars and shags. The method includes drying and curing of tobacco leaves (*Nicotiana tabacum*), extraction of the dried leaves with a mixture of organic solvent and water, re-drying of the extracted leaves to a controlled moisture value, and finally, elimination of the ribs. The leaves thus obtained are suitably mixed with excipients and flavourings, and shredded to make cigarettes, cigars, etc..